

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9423
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1053

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE, IN

SUBJ: PM GANHDI TO VISIT SRI LANKA

REF COLOMBO 814

1. INDIAN PM INDIRA GANDHI WILL PAY STATE VISIT TO SRI LANKA
APRIL 27-29. MRS. GANHDI WILL ARRIVE AT RATMALANA AIRPORT
1300 AND MAKE STATE DRIVE WITH PM BANDARANAIKE TO LATTER'S
OFFICIAL RESIDENCE, "TEMPLE TREES", PAY OFFICIAL CALLS ON MRS.
B AND PRES WILLIAM GOPALLAWA, AND ATTEND DINNER AT TAPROBANE
HOTEL AS GUEST OF MRS. B.

2. OFFICAIL TALKS WILL BE HELD APRIL 28 MORNING, AND PRES
AND MRS GOPALLAWA WILL BE HOSTS AT LUNCHEON PRIOR TO SECOND
ROUND OF TALKS IN AFTERNOON. AT 1630 PM GANDHI WILL ADDRESS
NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY. EVEING TAKSN UP BY RECEPTION BY
INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER COELHO AND RETURN DINNER AT TAPROBANE
BY MRS GANDHI.

3. FINAL DAY OF VISIT MRS GANDHI WILL HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE
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AND LEAVE IN EARLY AFTERNOON.

4. MUCH SPECULATION ON SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED BY TWO PM'S, BUT LIKELIEST ARE QUESTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 1964 SIRIMAVO-SHASTRI AGREEMENT ON REPATRIATION OF STATELESS INDIANS, DISPUTE OVER DESOLATE ISLAND OF KACHCHATIVU, AND INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE PROPOSALS MADE BY SRI LANKA AT UN. SUBJECT OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION MAY ALSO COME IN FOR DISCUSSION (SRI LANKA HAS ADVERSE BALANCE OF TRADE WITH INDIA).

5. PM GANDHI REPORTEDLY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH, JOINT SECRETARY DILIP KAMTHEKAR, AND PROFESSOR DHAR.

6. THIS WILL BE MRS GANDHI'S FIRST VISIT TO SRI LANKA SINCE PM BANDARANAIKE TOOK OFFICE IN 1970. SRI LANKA HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY SENSITIVE TO INDIAN MOVES SINCE INDO-SOVIET PACT OF 1971, AND RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES SOMEWHAT LESS THAN CORDIAL AS RESULT SRI LANKA'S ATTITUDE ON BANGLADESH AND FEAR HERE OF POTENTIAL INDIAN EXPANSIONISM. PRESUMABLY MRS GANDHI WILL SEEK TO ALLAY THESE FEARS AND COUNTERACT SRI LANKA'S REAPPROACHMENT WITH CHINESE.
VAN HOLLEN

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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